

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks. Claims 22-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 22 is amended and claim 26 is added. By this Amendment, no claims are cancelled.

Because new claim 26 and the amendments to claim 22 present new issues requiring a further search and/or consideration, Applicants filed this Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to ensure its consideration. Any subsequent action other than a Notice of Allowance or Quayle Action should be non-final.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interview conducted on January 12, 2008. As discussed during the telephone interview, Applicants amended claim 22 to further recite "the reference picture being one of a P-picture and I-picture." As stated during the interview, the Examiner agrees that amended claim 22 overcomes the cited portions of Haneda (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0133596, hereinafter "Haneda"). In addition, the Examiner agrees that new claim 26 overcomes the cited portions of Haneda.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the claims 22-26 are in a condition for allowance. As stated during the interview, if the Examiner has any questions concerning the allowability of this application, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the under-signed at the number listed below to further discuss.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haneda (U.S. 2003/0133596, hereinafter “Haneda”). As stated above, the Examiner agrees that amended claim 22 overcomes the cited portions of Haneda. In addition, Applicants submit that the entire disclosure of Haneda does not disclose the newly recited features of claim 22. For instance, Haneda is strictly limited to the storage and management of *B-picture*, not a determination of *reference pictures* for the B-pictures of Haneda for which the reference pictures are one of I-picture and P-picture. Claims 23-25, dependent on claim 22, are patentable for the same reasons stated above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

New Claim 26

In view of the comments above, Applicants respectfully request that new claim 26 be allowed. For instance, the entire disclosure of Haneda does not disclose the recited steps of claim 26.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 22-25 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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